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PRIORITY

SECRET
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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, JIDDA

138
DESP. NO.

COPY NO.

SERIES 2

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

JANUARY 15, 1957
DATE

REF : Mytel 334 from Dhahran; Desp 57 from Dhahran

DAMASCUS TEHRAN - PIC 4/PR

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SUBJECT: AUDIENCE WITH KING SAUD, JANUARY 7, 1957

I enclose a memorandum-record of my formal audience with His Majesty King Saud on January 7 in Riyadh. This audience was a continuation of my private audience with His Majesty which was reported in my despatch no. 57 of January 12 from Dhahran.

Of particular interest in this audience was my discussion with His Majesty of the President's message to Congress of January 5 (subject number 2) and His Majesty's views and comments (prompted by President Quwatly and Foreign Minister Bitar during their January 5-7 visit to Riyadh) on the "Eisenhower Doctrine". I venture to suggest that this discussion will bear careful reading by the Department in view of the approaching meetings of His Majesty with the President.

George Wadsworth
George Wadsworth

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>J. Brown</i>	DATE <i>11/18/82</i>
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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS	

Enclosure: *all*

- 1) Memorandum Record of Formal Audience with His Majesty King Saud in Riyadh on January 7, 1957.

Department please pouch to Damascus, Tehran.

Wadsworth, George Wadsworth Jr: bet
REPORTER

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Audience with His Majesty King Saud

In Riyadh on January 7, 1957 - 12-15 - 1:00 P.M.

(This is a continuation of Ambassador Wadsworth's private audience with His Majesty on January 7. For private audience, see enclosure 2 to despatch No. 57, January 12, 1957 from Dhahran.)

Participants:

His Majesty King Saud
Royal Counselor Yusuf Yasin
Rushdi Melhas, recorder

Ambassador Wadsworth
Secretary Stoltzfus, recorder
Mohamed Massoud, interpreter

Subjects:

- 1) His Majesty's Visit to the United States
- 2) President's Message to Congress of January 5
- 3) Hungary
- 4) Persi and Arabi Islands
- 5) Arms for Saudi Arabia

1) His Majesty's Visit to the United States

HIS MAJESTY: We are now clear on the three official days during which we will be guests of President Eisenhower in Washington. After the official visit, we would like to arrange to see our American friends.

AMBASSADOR: My Government has invited Your Majesty—an official party of 10 persons for 10 days to be his guests, and our protocol section will have everything arranged. After the official part of the visit, Your Majesty may stay as long as you may wish in America and do whatever you like.

HIS MAJESTY: I would appreciate it if Your Excellency would get together with Shaikh Yusuf on all arrangements for the trip.

AMBASSADOR: May I send a telegram immediately saying that the dates set for the visit have been agreed upon?

HIS MAJESTY: Please do. We are sending Shaikh Yusuf to Jidda four days ahead of our departure so that he can be in close contact with Your Excellency on final arrangements. I shall be going on a hunting trip starting tomorrow.

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AMBASSADOR: I have requested my Government to contact the American Export Lines concerning reservations for Your Majesty and your party.

HIS MAJESTY: How many reservations are there available?

AMBASSADOR: I have requested reservations for Your Majesty's official party and I have informed Washington that more will be required. We should let the Company know the total number as soon as possible.

HIS MAJESTY: We would like to have your assistance in obtaining as many as we need.

AMBASSADOR: I am at your service, Your Majesty.

HIS MAJESTY: We shall determine the size of our party and inform Shaikh Yusuf later today.

Please accept my invitation to dinner with me this evening.

AMBASSADOR: Thank you, Your Majesty. It is an honor and always a pleasure.

2) President Eisenhower's Message to Congress, January 5.

I would like, now that Shaikh Yusuf is here, to comment, if I may, on the two questions raised by Shukri Bey yesterday concerning President Eisenhower's message to Congress.

a) He asked why, when speaking of aggression, the message limited itself to saying only that the United States will support any state, which sought our help, against communist aggression. Wouldn't it have been better, he asked, if the United States had said it is against any aggression, from whatever source?

HIS MAJESTY: Yes, Shukri wished to know what the United States' attitude would be toward aggression from sources other than communist.

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AMBASSADOR: I would like to answer that personally and then officially:

First, only Allah can protect everyone from everything; and second, the United States wants to support and work through the United Nations on all problems that can be handled by it, such as in the case of the Suez crisis, for example.

HIS MAJESTY: I shall never assist in aggression but I want to help stop aggression of any kind.

AMBASSADOR: The President's message is clear on that point. The cases of Hungary, Palestine, and others are all being worked on through the United Nations, and we will support it in every way we can.

HIS MAJESTY: I understand this, but how about public opinion? The public needs to be clear on this point.

AMBASSADOR (Producing a typewritten transcript of the President's message received from Amman prior to his departure from Dhahran the previous day): Here is a rough transcript of the President's message to Congress. It is eight pages long. The first three pages cover the point we have been discussing which I can sum up very briefly by saying this: There is one chief threat to peace in the Middle East and in the world today and that is from Russia. It is against that threat that the President speaks.

HIS MAJESTY: That is true. But

AMBASSADOR: On January 12, when he delivers his State of the Union Message to Congress, President Eisenhower will make a very important speech which will deal, among other things, with the broader problem of our foreign relations as a whole. The present message deals only with the one threat--the Russian imperialist threat, direct and indirect--against the Middle East. It is a part, only one important part of the larger question.

HIS MAJESTY: We would like to study this present message. Have you an Arabic version?

AMBASSADOR: This is coming to Riyadh today and will bring copies in English and Arabic.

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HIS MAJESTY: Will [] have the official text? BI (A) (4)

AMBASSADOR: No, Your Majesty, only a radio transcript. I shall deliver an official text as soon as possible, but to save time I would like to give you [] transcription, which is a good one. BIOX

The other point we discussed regarding the "Eisenhower Doctrine"—and this is a line the communists have stressed—was the charge that, by accepting United States' assistance, the Arabs would be merely exchanging one imperialist power influence in the Middle East for another. In other words, it is being said by some people that the United States itself is attempting to fill the "vacuum".

My answer to this charge is that the United States recognizes that there is a "power deficit" in the Middle East which should be filled, not by alien, external force but primarily by the increased strength and vigor of the Middle East states themselves.

The United States is, therefore, not endeavoring to fill a "power vacuum". for it does not believe that one exists. What it does believe is that actual and potential strength already exists in these states and that they can become stronger with our help. We will lend our support in your efforts to strengthen yourselves, if you ask us for it. In the meantime, the United States will continue to assist with the normal types of military and economic aid which we have extended in the past.

HIS MAJESTY: I have long understood all this and, now that Your Excellency has explained it thus, I understand it even better. But I am concerned lest the public not understand. As I said, the aggression recently suffered by the Arabs is important to them. I believe that you must come down from the lofty levels of diplomatic language and talk to the people in their own language. President Eisenhower, with his great heart, should talk to the people and impart to them his real purpose, which is a good purpose.

AMBASSADOR: I believe he will do this when he delivers his State of the Union Message to Congress next Saturday.

But right now he wants to inform the world of the serious Russian imperialist threat to the Middle East, as the United States sees it. He wanted to stress this very crucial issue by itself and not simply as one of several world problems, important as they all are.

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AMBASSADOR: I shall not fail to report this point to my Government, Your Majesty. I have simply wanted to be clear on these two questions in this discussion with Your Majesty and with Shaikh Yusuf.

HIS MAJESTY: Sheikh Yusuf is familiar with our thinking on these points, and I would appreciate it if you would discuss them with him further, perhaps on our way to the United States.

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HIS MAJESTY: I wish to add that the only practical solution is for Iran to withdraw its forces from the islands and leave them as they were before. Let us have no forces on the islands until we can settle the matter by negotiation.

5) Arms for Saudi Arabia

AMBASSADOR: I have one last point I would like to make to Your Majesty.

My Government has informed me that it is giving active consideration to Your Majesty's arms requests and that a separate message on this subject will be sent to me within a week.

HIS MAJESTY: Thank you. We are most anxious to receive word about the status of our arms and ammunition requests.

AMBASSADOR: That ends the list of messages that I have been instructed to deliver to Your Majesty.

Once again may I say that I am most grateful to Your Majesty for affording me the opportunity to talk to Shukri. It was an extremely interesting experience and I hope it has helped our relations with Syria.

HIS MAJESTY: That is my hope, and that is why I asked you to come and talk in person with Shukri. Also, as I told you, he had given me some reports about communism in his country and I wanted him to give them to you personally and in my presence."

(Here the audience ended.)